

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, October 7, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 7, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Carl W. Rehling, St. James Parish, Lothian, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everliving God, Fountain of all wisdom, creator of all good knowledge, whose will is good and gracious and whose law is truth, so guide and bless the Representatives in this Congress assembled, that they may enact such laws as shall please You, to the glory of Your name and to the welfare of all people.

We ask that Your holy and life-giving spirit may so move every human heart, especially the hearts of those appointed by the people to lead us, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in a country and a world governed by Your justice and secure in Your peace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GILMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

HEALTH CARE AND MISS NANNIE LACKEY

(Mr. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, as I was walking to work this morning and reflecting on the day's very important vote to ensure real patient protection, I was reminded of Miss Nannie Lackey and her 100th birthday.

As I got closer to the Capitol and the Longworth Building, I thought how rich her life was in health, friendship, love, and faith. See, Miss Lackey has voted in every election since women were first given the right to vote. She takes voting very seriously, and she hopes all of us will take equally seriously the votes we cast today.

So I would ask that my colleagues take a few minutes to reflect on the importance of providing the best health care possible in our next century.

I hope my colleagues will see, as I do, that increasing the cost and number of uninsured is not the answer to real health care reform, nor is it real patient protection.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting positive health care reform and support the Coburn-Shadegg coalition substitute.

DO NOT LET AMERICA DOWN; VOTE FOR NORWOOD-DINGELL SUBSTITUTE

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, today is the most important day in the life of this House of Representatives. Will the people of America be able to have quality health care or not? Will the people of America have the opportunity to have their doctors determine their health care, their length of stay, their type of procedure; or will they turn it over to the bureaucrats, the accountant whose main purpose is to watch the bottom line.

Madam Speaker, let us not take this lightly. Besides quality education, besides environment that is clean and safe, and decent housing, health care is the number one priority of American citizens. Let us not let them down. Vote for the Norwood-Dingell bill today, the most effective of all the proposals.

GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO'S CALL FOR DRUG LEGALIZATION

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, the Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson, has been calling for the legalization of mind-altering drugs. His rationale for throwing in the towel is his mistaken belief that we are losing the war on drugs.

Regrettably, under the Clinton administration, there has not been a balanced supply-and-demand-side fight against drugs. In fact, the war on drugs never truly began at its source in places like Colombia, since all of it was concentrated on treating the wounded here at home.

During the Reagan and Bush era, when we fought this battle against drugs on both the supply side and demand side simultaneously, we made real progress. Between 1985 and 1992, we reduced monthly cocaine use by nearly 80 percent. That is real progress.

In the city of Baltimore, we have learned firsthand the disastrous impact of a de facto legalization program and the lax attitude as has been proposed by Governor Johnson. The number of heroin addicts increased dramatically during a long laissez-faire period while population declined. Today, one in 17 citizens of Baltimore are heroin addicts. No one would agree that is any